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Secret Role For Scientists Is Deplored

By Henry W. Pierce
Special to The Washington Post
PITTSBURGH, Nov. 17—

A university social scientist charged today that many members of his profession "are knowingly or unknowingly acting in full or part-time as Government intelligence agents."

He warned that it could do long-range harm to the profession as foreign countries restrict field work.

The scientist, anthropologist Ralph Beals of the University of California at Los Angeles, recently completed a Nation-wide study that is expected to serve as a basis for discussion by the American Anthropological Association at its four-day meeting here. Guidelines to be drafted by the group are to be made public late Saturday or Sunday.

Beals said he believes some anthropologists are being "seduced into undercover work" by offers of grants from phony foundations—"from organizations who need information, although they are not necessarily related to government." And he said it is not just the Central Intelligence Agency they are working for, although he declined to name other agencies.

Such actions, he said, are creating suspicion of social scientists in many overseas countries. "We have to have the confidence of the people we're studying — this is absolutely imperative — and we can't get it if they think we're spies," he said.

"In some countries," he added, "you can't get permission to do research unless you are affiliated with one of their own research organizations."

He pointed out that for the United States Government to hire anthropologists to provide data on cultures was "perfectly acceptable." But he called for disclosure of the sponsoring group and even disclosure of the purposes of the research.

The entire problem was brought into focus last year when the Army's controversial \$4-million Project Camelot, a study of "insurgency and counter-insurgency" in Chile, was widely criticized and eventually canceled.

Project Camelot, which was to be implemented by the Special Operations Research Organization—centered at American University in Washington—was designed to show how Communists capitalize on revolutionary change in developing countries.

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